

# Bulletin

## Government's Opening Position Unacceptable

### *Provincial Discussions Voluntary*

OSSTF was quite surprised and dismayed when the government abandoned its protocols used in Provincial Discussion Tables that have led to labour peace over the last 8 years.

The government refused to meet in person, relying on a teleconference call to convey the message that its demands would not be well received. When the government's position was presented, it sent in its place a team of high priced lawyers to present its position.

OSSTF is adamant that participation in the Provincial Discussion Table is voluntary, as this is not the collective bargaining process identified under the Ontario Labour Relations Act.

Traditionally, defining an acceptable process is the focus of the initial steps in bargaining. This was not the intent of the government which saw its lawyers focus solely on the government's position.

A letter sent by OSSTF, and other affiliates, to the Premier to arrange for a meeting and open dialogue was rejected.

The opening position the government tabled does not reflect an acceptable process nor an acceptable position. It will not lead to a satisfactory outcome.

## Proposed Changes May Impact Group Placement

### *Advice re: Certification Ratings*

Members currently taking or intending to take additional courses should be aware that the provincial government has recently proposed changes which, if implemented, may have an impact on group placement and movement. It will be up to individual members to decide whether or not to take courses under these circumstances.



*Cindy Gage, Georgetown DHS, and Mark Schmidt, Nelson HS, were among the 21 delegates from District 20 who attended the Provincial Assembly March 9-12.*

## District 20 General Meeting

**Thursday March 29**

**CAW Galaxy Club, Oakville**

**4:30 pm Refreshments, 5:00 pm Meeting**

**Stand Up, Stand Strong, Stand United!**

**Keynote Speaker: Earl Burt, Treasurer, OSSTF**

*Members of the Teachers' Bargaining Unit, Office Clerical Technical Unit, Professional Student Services Personnel, and the Halton Secondary Occasional Teachers are encouraged to attend.*

## Key Staffing Dates...

- **Mar. 21** Preliminary Staff Allocation meeting (Branch Presidents and TBU Staffing Committee will attend)
- **Mar. 21-30** In-school section and staff allocation
- **Mar. 30** Principals submit school staffing plans (including vacancies and potential surplus) to HR
- **April 2** Principals must notify any teachers who are to be potentially declared surplus to their schools
- **April 11** Internal ad #2
- **April 25** Surplus Placement meeting (TBU Staffing Committee will attend)



*Twenty-one District 20 members participated in the Creating Safe Work Environments Workshop last month.*

## OSSTF Makes Members' Health and Safety a Priority

Two years ago the Teachers' Bargaining Unit initiated a federation sponsored Health and Safety Committee. Initially, reps from six schools formed the Committee. Since then, the interest has grown and we are now proud to say that 13 schools are represented on the OSSTF Health and Safety Committee

The committee has broken down the isolation that health and safety representatives formerly felt and enabled the school representatives to share their concerns and experiences.

We have also raised the level of importance and visibility of the Health and Safety positions within our secondary schools.

Training has included: Level one Health and Safety (30 hrs); WHMIS in the workplace module (7 hrs); Introductory H and S orientation module (3 hrs); and the Asbestos training module (3 hrs).

Future major training will include: Level Two Law (2012-13) (30 hrs); and Health and Safety Hygienist training (30 hrs).

It is clearly demonstrated, by recent Ministry of Labour inspections of HDSB secondary schools, that having an active Health & Safety member reduces the number of safety violations.

District 20 has raised the awareness of health and safety in our schools and helped to build a culture centred on health and safety within our secondary schools.

### OSSTF Maternity/Parenting Workshop

Monday April 16, 2012, 4-5:30 p.m.



District Office

3410 South Service Rd.  
Burlington

Contact Lorie Wiersma

## OSSTF President Delivers Address at Annual Meeting

TORONTO, ON - Mar 10 2012 –

President Ken Coran addressed 900 delegates, alternates and guests from across Ontario at the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation's Annual Meeting.

In his state of the union address, Coran emphasized the necessity of maintaining free collective bargaining rights and not undoing collective agreements with legislation.

He also pointed out that it is important to continue a collaborative respective partnership with the government that promotes and enhances publicly funded education.

Coran stated, "OSSTF/FEESO will defend our members' rights—they are the ones working with students and who have made Ontario's education system the best in the English-speaking world."

Coran concluded his speech by asking the 60,000 members across Ontario to stand up, stand strong and stand united.

To view the President's address click here [www.osstf.on.ca/president-address-to-ampa-2012-pdf](http://www.osstf.on.ca/president-address-to-ampa-2012-pdf)

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